

# LETTERS

Letters to the editor should be addressed to the editor, Courier-Journal, Richford Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. They should be no longer than 1 1/2 pages, typed double-spaced. Names and addresses should be included. The paper reserves the right to edit all letters.

## Fed Up With Slogans

Editor:

There's one thing to be said for old age: it gives a person an opportunity to pop off.

I am fed up with slogans and catch-phrases so dear to the American public. "The War To End Wars", "The War To Make The World Safe For Democracy", "Day by Day I Am Getting Better and Better", "Reach for a Lucky Instead of a Sweet" ad infinitum!

Which brings me to the relevant issues of the day:

Church and State:

Are we willing to trade our birthright for a mess of pottage? Help from the state would mean

accepting directives from the state on what subjects to teach and what ones to eliminate. The Church was built on sacrifice of its parishioners until the advent of million dollar rectories and multimillion schools. Now we find ourselves bankrupt.

Abortion:

To abort or not to abort. That is the question and the politicians are having a field day with the issue and as long as they are assured that the governor will veto the bill, legislators will vote against abortion. Nixon, in an effort to 'be all things to all people' is wooing the Catholic vote by talking out of both sides of his mouth. His semantics are hard to fathom. He is in favor of contraceptives but against abortion. That is like condoning manslaughter but abhorring murder. Is there a difference?

Political Intrigue:

Kissinger's latest trip to Peking and Podgorny's visit to Hanoi looks like the beginning of a ploy to toss South Vietnam to the wolves and to let the devil take the hindmost. Cicero said: "An army abroad is of little use unless there are prudent counsels at home" and one cannot read the Pentagon Papers and still maintain that our counsels have been prudent.

It has been said that politics make strange bedfellows and we had better keep one eye open . . . . . and our powder dry!

Herb Hart  
Ridge Road  
Rochester



"CONSIDERING THE TIMES WE'RE LIVING IN, I'M NOT SURPRISED YOU BOTH DROPPED OUT, BUT I'D LIKE TO HEAR THE WHOLE STORY—FIRST FROM YOU, MOM, AND THEN DAD!"

FR. ALBERT SHAMON

## Word For Sunday



In a crowded bus a man stood up to give a woman his seat. The lady fainted. When she was revived, she said, "Thank you." The man fainted. Have courtesy and little kindnesses become so rare today as to shock when proffered?

In the ancient world, kindness, especially hospitality to travelers, was a cardinal virtue. To deny food and lodging to the stranger was to run the risk of turning away even the gods, so the ancients believed. Ovid tells the legend of how Jupiter and Mercury one day walked the earth as pilgrims. No one gave them food or shelter save a poor man, Philemon, and his wife, Baucis. As a reward, the gods promised to spare the couple from the flood that would destroy all those who had refused them hospitality.

In Christianity legend becomes fact. Our Lord said, "Who welcomes you, welcomes Me." So identified is Christ with man that what is done to the least is done to Him.

In the days of Elisha there lived a woman who welcomed the prophet into her home. She dwelt in Shunem, a village a few miles south of present day Nazareth. She was a simple woman, so unassuming we do not even know her name. Yet she was a woman of influence. Her

influence stemmed in no small measure from her kindness—her care and concern for others. Her piety manifested itself when she gave as her reason for offering Elisha hospitality "He is a holy man of God."

The fact she responded to Elisha as she did revealed her heart was kindred to his. A man whose soul is stirred by the stormy thunder of Beethoven or lifted by the spritely strains of Mozart has something of the musician in himself. The man who can appreciate the grand organ music of "Paradise Lost" or the rhapsodical sublimity of "The Hound of Heaven" has something of the poet in himself. So one who can do little deeds of kindness out of love for God has much of a godliness in himself.

Hospitality need not cost much. Again the simplicity of the woman of Shunem! She made no effort to impress the prophet with her wealth. All she gave him were the bare necessities. A bed which one uses a third of the time of each day; a table and lamp for eating and working, the other third; and a chair for sitting, reflecting, and relaxing for the rest of the time. "How many things," said Socrates, "there are, which I do not need!"

What really counts more than services rendered is the motive prompting them. A cup of cold water — so small a service done in My name will have a reward. A room, a chair, a lamp, a bed — "a cup of cold water", so to speak. Yet great was the woman of Shunem's reward for her little kindnesses to Elisha, for they were done in the name of the Lord. "Who receives a prophet in My name will receive a prophet's reward." Thus Elisha promised God would give her a son, her heart's desire. Later on in the story, the boy died in his teen years from sunstroke. The woman from Shunem went to Elisha, and the prophet brought the boy back to life, heaping reward upon reward for her hospitality.

Physiologists tell us we have two sets of nerves, the afferent and the efferent. One brings impressions to us from without (afferent). The other acts on the muscles and responds to external stimuli. Life is receiving and giving — both activities are important. To receive and not to give is detestable selfishness. To give and not to receive is impossible — especially if done in the name of Christ.

## Reader's View Supported

Editor:

I would like to thank Walter O'Hagan for his letter in the Courier-Journal, (6-14-72). He has expressed my views so well. Thank God. I was afraid the "right to lifers" would force me out of the Church. It is so reassuring to see that I am not alone in my opinions which I honestly hold along with my Faith.

Mary B. Grabman  
DeLancey Drive  
Geneva

## Help Asked For Rapid City

Editor:

I am making a plea on behalf of the flood victims in Rapid City, S.D. They are in great need of financial aid to help rebuild their homes and city. We can't bring back the many who lost their lives but we can reach out to those who have been spared by contributing to the Rapid City, S. D. American Red Cross, Flood Relief or to the local chapter of the American Red Cross, 50 Prince St. Rochester, N.Y. 14607. Also, those who wish may contribute to the Salvation Army, Rapid City, S.D. 57701.

Mrs. Thomas McGrain  
Seville Drive  
Rochester  
(formerly of Rapid City, S.D.)

## Women Should Be Ordained

Editor:

Father Stuart Hogan's Defense of the Catholic Church's refusal to ordain women is interesting, although illogical.

In choosing men as leaders of His Church, Christ was very wise indeed. Women were considered as weak and subservient. There were no women professionals or workers. Christ needed community leaders and had no choice but to pick men. The times have changed, Father Hogan. Unfortunately, the Church has not!

If indeed, Christ was mandating his choice for future leadership, Father Hogan would not be a priest now. Christ chose twelve white Jews. Has this fact deterred the Church from ordaining Germans? Italians? Indians? Negroes? Oh, no! That would be discrimination, wouldn't it?

Jacquelyn Kelly  
Furman Road  
Fairport

## Must Continue Bosco Work

Editor:

As a teenager who had worked closely with Father Bauer almost since the conception of Bosco House, I know how much he loved the work that he was doing with the handicapped. Anyone who viewed him last summer would have seen a man who was determined to get Bosco House and the grounds surrounding it, ready for last September's Dedication by Bishop Hogan. In fact, one visitor to the House thought that he was just "another volunteer" before she met him. How easy to mistake him as a volunteer and not the director because at the time he was out in front digging a trench for a power line!

Attending Father Bauer's Masses was an experience that will live with me forever. His sermons, geared to children, especially the handicapped (although most of the time the looks on the adults' faces showed that they too were learning something) were always accompanied by a visual aid or two. Father Bauer's visual aids included a radio, a bottle of milk, a jigger of poison, a deck of cards, a compass, and even a bag of toys! The Beauty of the House, the simplicity of the sermon, and the joyful playing of guitars made Mass an experience where everyone felt bound together by love. If there was ever a request which Father made, it was to be full of love.

I hope the work which he started won't be stopped. The man who fills Father Bauer's shoes will find Bosco House a loveable and joyful home. Seeing all the smiles which he brought to the faces of all those he worked with will make the job of director much easier. And seeing all those smiles will make me want to help them more than ever.

David Faraone  
Bosco House  
Board of Consultants

## CUF Urges Confession First

Editor:

The recently formed Rochester St. Pius X Chapter of the Catholics United for the Faith (CUF) voted unanimously at its last meeting to urge those in charge of Catholic education in the Diocese of Rochester to respect, heed, and support the directives of the Holy See as outlined in the Catechetical Directory issued by the Sacred

Congregation for the Clergy with regard to the time and order in which children should be admitted to their First Confession and First Holy Communion. Catholics United for the Faith believe that it is speaking for a very large number of parents in the diocese when it declares with Cardinal Wright that the delay of First Confession in the life of the child is "... an ill-conceived pastoral practice — a singularly perverse abuse, destructive of the child's discretion, sense of responsibility and spiritual rights".

The Catechetical Directory states: "The Holy See . . . urges the bishops not to depart from the established custom in this serious matter without prior consultation with herself . . . Nor should they permit parish priests or teachers of religious institutions to abandon the established usage or to go on ignoring it".

The Holy Father has spoken to us through the Congregation for the Clergy. We, as loyal Catholics, believe that the Diocese of Rochester should be guided by the Holy See and follow the directives of its Congregations. We respectfully urge that the present practice of administering Holy Communion before the reception of the Sacrament of Penance be discontinued. We believe that this is the mandate of Rome and the wish of the majority of Catholic parents.

A copy of Cardinal Wright's booklet on the New Catechetical Directory and the sacraments of Penance and Eucharist can be had free by contacting me by mail or phone 586-3351.

Anthony Acclari, Chairman  
CATHOLICS UNITED FOR  
THE FAITH  
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## How About Men's Rights?

Editor:

With the constitutionality of the N.Y. abortion law to be decided on by the Supreme Court on the basis of the right to life of the unborn human I think the latest constitutional amendment should prove this law to be doubly unconstitutional.

The present abortion law allows abortions upon decision of a woman and her doctor. The father, the male partner in procreation and the one co-responsible for half the chromosomal makeup of his offspring is accorded no recognition or legal rights. This constitutes discrimination on the basis of sex.

Louis J. Pasqua  
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Geneva

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